

Subject: Oriental coin collection

Griffith, Dorsey J.
[Arlington, VA]

1937

DORSEY J. GRIFFITH
ANTIQUES

4356 LEE HIGHWAY, ARLINGTON, VA.

PHONE: WASHINGTON EXCHANGE
WALNUT 7872

July 22nd 1937.

Mr. Howland Wood

American Numismatic Society

156 th St and Broadway

New York City, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

On the advice of Dr. T.T. Belote of the National Museum I wish to advise you that I recently acquired a collection of oriental coins. This collection was gathered together over a period of sixty-five years terminating about 1888. Most of the collection consists of Chinese and Japanese items and from the twenty-odd volumes on Chinese Characters etc. it is fair to assume that collector was somewhat of a student on the subject. Practically every coin is tagged dynasty, reign and price valued as of 1888.

Dr. Belote informs me that you will be in Washington sometime in August and if you care to examine this collection I will arrange it for display at the above address if you will be so kind as to give me a few days notice.

Very truly yours,

Dorsey J. Griffith
Dorsey J. Griffith

July 28, 1937

Mr. Dorsey J. Griffith,
4356 Lee Highway
Arlington, Va.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of July 22nd at hand. It is extremely doubtful if I will get to Washington at the time of the Numismatic Convention there the end of August - in fact, I do not know when I will be in Washington.

As a rule, these collections of Chinese and Japanese coins are not very saleable. There is very little interest taken in such things in this country in recent years. A great many collections have been formed by foreign residents in China, missionaries especially, and also the Chinese have made up a great many collections which tourists and travellers have bought. Invariably in all of these collections, the older and rarer pieces are fakes, the Chinese being fairly expert and very prolific in turning them out.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks